

LETTER TO THE BISHOP



GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The ordinary minister for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the Bishop. "The diocesan bishop is obliged to take care that the Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred on subjects who properly and reasonably seek it." (Canon 885). Therefore, it is now time for you to officially request Confirmation from the Bishop. It is the custom to do this through a written letter. This year, our confirming bishop is The Most Reverend: **Bishop Thomas Thanh Thai Nguyen**

Your letter **MUST** include the following items:

DUE DAY for BISHOP LETTER: March 1st, 2025

- Type your letter so that it can be easily read. **No Handwriting.**
- The letter should be, at least, one 8 1/2" x 11" page, clean and unfolded.
 - ◆ More than 1 page is allowed, but **do not** use a font larger than size 12.
 - ◆ Each paragraph should be **single-spaced.**
- Put the date you write the letter on top.
- **Begin with a salutation.** You may use one of the following by inserting the full name of the bishop who will be confirming. His name is in the introductory statement above.
 - ◆ Dear Bishop **(First Name) (Last Name)**
 - ◆ Dear Most Reverend **(First Name) (Last Name)**
 - ◆ What Saint name you chose and why you chose that Saint.
- **Introduce yourself.**
 - ◆ Tell him your name and who you are.
 - ◆ Tell him a little about yourself.
 - ◆ Something you experienced on one of the Confirmation retreats that helped you grow in faith.
 - ◆ Gospel Reflection: **Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15 (The Parable of the Sower)**
 - ◆ A powerful moment in your relationship with Jesus.
- Ask him for the sacrament of Confirmation.
 - ◆ This is to let him know what you are writing.
 - ◆ This can be done in one sentence.
 - ◆ At the beginning or the end of the letter is usually best.
- Explain why you want to be confirmed.
- Thank the bishop for reading your letter.
- Type your first and last name with the name of our parish directly under your name.
- Sign your name **in pen** directly above where you typed your name.
- Finally, check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation at least **3 times.**

The above items are critical. If you fail to do any of them, the Confirmation Office will need you to redo your letter.

SUGGESTED THINGS TO WRITE ABOUT

- Something you learned in a Confirmation class that changed your life or perspective
- Something you experienced on one of the Confirmation retreats that helped you grow in faith
- How preparing for Confirmation changed you
- What you did for a service project and how it made you grow in being a better Catholic
- What Saint name you chose and why you've chosen that saint
- A powerful moment in your relationship with Jesus
- The reason you want to be confirmed



SAMPLE LETTER

Here is a very short sample letter to give you an idea of how your letter should look and sound. **Do not copy this.** This is an example, your letter must be in your own words with the correct Gospel reflection.

March 1, 2025

Your Excellency Bishop Kevin W. Vann,

I am writing this letter so that you may know my desire to be confirmed. Let me first introduce myself. My name is Michael Nguyen; I was baptized into the Catholic Church as an infant at Blessed Sacrament Church. I later received my First Communion at this same parish. I'm one of five kids. I have one brother and three sisters.

At first I did not enjoy Confirmation classes very much. I think one of the reasons I did not enjoy it is because I felt that I knew everything there was to know about my faith. You see, my mother has taught me since I was a child. So I have learned many stories and lessons throughout the years.

One story I've had an opportunity to reflect on is Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15. After reading this Bible passage, I felt -

What Confirmation classes have taught me most of all is that I really don't know everything there is to know about the faith. I don't think I will ever know everything. I do know this: I am a Catholic, and I desire to learn and grow in faith until my death. I truly want to live out my faith. It is my hope that Confirmation will help me with this desire.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Your Signature
Michael Nguyen
Blessed Sacrament Church

Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15 (The Parable of the Sower)

- 4 When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable.*
- 5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up.
- 6 Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture.
- 7 Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it.
- 8 And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold.” After saying this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.”
- 9 Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be.
- 10 He answered, “Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that ‘they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.’
- 11 “This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God.
- 12 Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved.
- 13 Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial.
- 14 As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit.
- 15 But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.